

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 159

From the [Brown Daily Herald](#): Brown will reduce its overall Ph.D. admissions to around 80% of its current targets in an effort to regulate University operating costs, Provost Francis Doyle said at Tuesday's faculty meeting. When admitting this fall's doctoral cohort, no Ph.D. program was reduced by more than two admissions slots beneath the program's typical minimum size. But Doyle said that this minimal reduction was "unsustainable" for this year's admissions cycle.



...At Tuesday's faculty meeting, Janet Blume, co-chair of the Doctoral Education Working Group and interim dean of the Graduate School, said the group's goal is to "identify the central questions and key issues as we think about graduate education in this changing landscape." ... "We want to make sure everybody has meaningful, fulfilling jobs ... and that their time here is rewarding," she said.

Blume added that some faculty members have expressed concerns that "ending a graduate program might mean the end of a discipline, or be contributing to the end of a discipline." She emphasized that the working group is "very sensitive" to this issue.

Full story at <https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2025/11/brown-to-reduce-phd-admissions-by-20-this-application-cycle>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [Brown University](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 88



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): Harvard faculty said they were frustrated with the recent reductions in Ph.D. admission numbers at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, even as some accepted the cuts as a difficult but necessary step to shore up the school's precarious finances... "Seventy-five percent cuts are savage — are massive and savage — and seem disproportionate to any other cutting," former University President Lawrence H. Summers said last week. "I hope that with incremental funding, exception processes, or other means, that they will not materialize."

Others expressed less outright opposition to the reductions. While the cuts would severely impact teaching and scholarly research at Harvard, they said, the move was needed to address the budgetary challenges facing the FAS. "Of course I am sad about the cut but I am glad that we are moving towards financial sustainability and I understand that the pain needs to be spread around," Economics professor Edward L. Glaeser wrote in a statement to *The Crimson*.

FAS Dean Hopi E. Hoekstra announced late last month that the school would shrink the number of seats it offers to new Ph.D. admits for the next two years. The reductions amounted to 75 percent in the Science division, approximately 60 percent in the Arts & Humanities division, and at least 50 percent in the Social Science division...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/11/7/faculty-grad-admission-cuts/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Harvard](#)

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Averted Strike News

The UC strike threatened by UPTe (and other unions) apparently is off. Over this past weekend, the dispute was settled. Originally, a two-day strike was threatened for Nov. 17-18, overlapping the upcoming Regents meeting.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16](#)
- [Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall](#)
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- [MLA and BDS 9: Letter by Liron Mor Declining 2025 Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies \(Guest Post\)](#) - 11/26/2025
- [Anatomy of a Fall: The Case of Indiana University \(Guest Post\)](#) - 11/20/2025

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Joint Statement from UC and UPTE: Agreement Reached Following UPTE's Request to Resume Mediation

November 8, 2025

The University of California and the University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE) union have reached a contractual agreement after 17 months of bargaining and three weeks of mediation. After talks broke down earlier this week, UPTE approached the mediator to re-engage with UC.

The finalized agreement reflects the University's enduring commitment and UPTE's advocacy for our employees who play critical roles across the University. This outcome was the result of constructive dialogue and a shared commitment to finding common ground while maintaining financial responsibility in uncertain times.

Both parties acknowledge and appreciate the collaborative spirit that allowed us to move forward and reach a resolution that supports our valuable employees and the University of California's mission of excellence.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/joint-statement-uc-and-upte-agreement-reached-following-uptes-request-resume-mediation>.

UPDATE: Other unions are still planning to strike Nov. 17-18.

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As we have noted in the past, after the big student-worker strike, UC moved to "professionalize" its labor relations function and now responds on social media, e.g.,

https://x.com/UC_Newsroom/status/198654669710692795. See also:

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-underscores-good-faith-negotiations-unions-opt-strikes>; <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-reaffirms-commitment-fair-negotiations-amid-upte-strike-plans>.

Other unions may still use the public comment period at the upcoming Regents meetings.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [strikes](#), [UC](#), [UC Regents](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 158

From the [Cornell Daily Sun](#): *After months of incremental cost-cutting measures, Cornell has launched "Resilient Cornell," an initiative to reduce costs across all campuses through a restructuring of the University's workforce and operations. The plan, announced Oct. 16 in a statement by President Michael Kotlikoff, Provost Kavita Bala, Provost for Media Affairs Dr. Robert Harrington, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Chris Cowen and Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Christine Lovely mark Cornell's latest framework to address ongoing financial challenges.*

The announcement follows a series of three earlier statements regarding the University's financial health, outlining various short-term budget measures, such as extending an indefinite hiring freeze and limiting discretionary spending. Resilient Cornell formalizes these efforts into a unified program to achieve "lasting change that will support a strong Cornell for generations to come."

...Additionally, the University has hired Huron Consulting, a firm that has previously advised reorganization efforts at institutions including George Washington University to assess different aspects of the University's operations. Members of the Cornell community can contribute feedback about the University's process to deal with financial issues through a suggestion portal.

Full story at <https://www.cornellsun.com/article/2025/10/cornell-launches-resilient-cornell-initiative-to-cut-spending-overhaul-operations>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Cornell](#)

You Don't Say

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#): *The presence of two words — "equity" and "inclusion" — on page 50 of a 5-year-old grant application just killed a program at UC Berkeley that for half a century helped thousands of East Bay teens recognize that they could go to college and even pay for it.*

The canceled grant is one of 120 that the Trump administration has canceled across the country amid this fall's college application season, with more likely to come.



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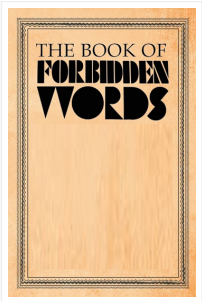
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...Trump's Education Department canceled the \$836,000 annual grant that supported UC Berkeley's Educational Talent Search as of Sept. 30. Federal officials alerted program administrators on Sept. 15 — after they had welcomed 1,507 students in the Oakland and West Contra Costa Unified school districts and begun counseling them about the value of college and how to apply.

Educational Talent Search is one of eight nationwide anti-poverty programs that grew out of three originally authorized by Congress in the 1960s and that have long received bipartisan support. Known collectively as TRIO, they include such well-known staples as Upward Bound and Student Support Services...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/uc-berkeley-educational-talent-search-21144252.php>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [public funding](#), [UC Berkeley](#)

All in 30 Minutes? - Part 2

The Regents committee dealing with the conflict with the feds is having another 30-minute meeting, a timeframe that would allow only limited discussion. Announcement:

November 10, 2025

TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

Because the membership of the Advisory Group on Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues ("Advisory Group") includes five members of the Regents' Governance Committee, there exists the potential for having present a quorum of a Regents' Committee when the advisory committee meets.

This notice of meeting is served in order to comply fully with pertinent open meeting laws. On Thursday, November 13, 2025, there will be a Closed Session, Special Meeting of the Regents' Governance Committee concurrent with the Advisory Group to discuss Research and Programs Funding Legal Issues (Closed Session Statute Citation: Litigation [Education Code section 92032(b)(5)].)

The meeting will convene at 8:00 a.m. at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland and adjourn at approximately 8:30 a.m.

(Advisory Group members: Regents Anguiano, Cohen, Hernandez, Leib, Matosantos, Milliken, Reilly, Robinson, Sarris, and Sures)

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov25/federal_11.13.2025.pdf.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UC Regents](#)

Monday, November 10, 2025

Special Systemwide Assembly Meeting: Nov. 20, 2025 (Agenda)



UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA Academic
Senate

The systemwide Assembly of the Academic Senate is having a special meeting on November 20th due to a resolution by petition concerning the provision by UCOP of names of individuals who are subject to civil rights discrimination complaints (on antisemitism) to federal authorities. The actual wording of the proposed resolution is not provided in the agenda announcement:

Agenda: Assembly Meeting - November 20, 2025

I. Roll Call (3:00 – 3:10)

II. Resolution Concerning the Disclosure of Names to the Federal Government (3:10 - 3:50 pm) [ACTION]

Issue: The signatories requested a special meeting to discuss and vote on a resolution concerning the disclosure of names of UC faculty, students, and staff to the federal government. The request arises in response to the University's agreement to provide the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights with detailed, case-level information from UC campuses concerning discrimination complaints. The agreement is said to include the names of reporters, complainants, respondents, and witnesses to these incidents.

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Athletic Investments - Part 3

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Special

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 84

The petitioners express concern that this disclosure compromises the privacy and safety of UC community members and potentially exposes them to retaliation or adverse immigration consequences. They further object to what they view as a failure by the UC Office of the President to adequately explain or justify the decision to release such sensitive information. President Milliken's message to the UC community on October 3 describes the University's actions as undertaken to comply with federal law.

Separately, on October 27, 2025, the Academic Council adopted and then issued its own statement regarding the University's disclosures, available here: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/council-chair-to-president-council-statement-pii.pdf. The Council's statement outlines concerns about transparency, privacy protections, and shared governance consultation in relation to the disclosures.

Discussion format: Assembly members and other Senate attendees will have the opportunity to provide input and share their perspectives.

III. New Business (3:50 - 4:00 pm)

Full notice including Zoom link for Senate members (only) to register is at:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/assembly/assembly-special-meeting-agenda-11-20-25.pdf.

Note: It is unclear if UCOP plans to provide additional legal justification for its position that the provision of names was required by law, either before or at the meeting. The timing of this meeting overlaps with the November 18-20 Regents meeting. It is unclear what determined this timing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [4:01 PM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [diversity](#), [Milliken](#), [UC Regents](#), [UCOP](#)

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